



March 18, 2021

Town of Halton Hills
1 Halton Hills Drive
Halton Hills, ON
L7G 5G2

Attention: Niloo Hodjati, Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment & Consent Official

**RE: Refund of Consent Fees for Application Consent D10CON21.002H - Brown
11737 Fourth Line, Town of Halton Hills (Esquesing), Regional Municipality of Halton**

The Bruce Trail Conservancy (BTC) is agent for Mary Brown and Lloyd Brown, owners of the subject property described above. The owners have agreed to sever and sell approximately 1.4 hectares (3.5 acres) to secure approximately 690 metres of the Bruce Trail Optimum Route. The consent application has been accepted and given file number D10CON21.002H – Brown.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy respectfully requests the Town to consider a refund of the consent fees for this application for the following reasons:

- The BTC is a charitable organization who provides an overwhelming public good in the form of a free public Trail, which extends from Niagara to Tobermory. Approximately 25 kilometers of Trail passes through Halton Hills, providing an important recreational and tourism opportunity for the Town and residents.
- Securing the Bruce Trail advances the provincial and Town objectives of “healthy and active communities” and supports the Halton Hills trail system. This includes strategic objectives e) and f) of the Official Plan: “to recognize that a healthy community is made up of an interconnected system of open spaces and natural heritage features” and, “to promote the retention of natural heritage features so that they can be enjoyed by future generations and serve as a legacy of the community’s desire to protect their role and function”. In addition, the Bruce Trail connects Halton Hills to the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Spaces System (NEPOSS), a collection of approximately 163 parks and open spaces that are linked by the Bruce Trail corridor.
- The proposed severance meets the Town’s “environment-first philosophy” contained within the Official Plan. The BTC has preserved 18,000 acres along the Optimum Route of the Trail, and we embrace our role in responsible stewardship of these lands for the benefit of all, including future generations.
- The costs the BTC will incur to sever and secure the Trail in a permanently protected, publicly-accessible corridor on this property will almost exceed the purchase price of the land. This includes \$10,404 for the consent fee. This the fourth consent application to the Town but the first time we’ve requested relief from this fee.

Background

The Bruce Trail is Canada's oldest and longest footpath. It was founded in the early 1960s as a way of raising awareness for the need to protect the Niagara Escarpment. Today, the Bruce Trail stretches 895 kilometres from Queenston on the Niagara River to the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. Including side trails, it is more than 1,300 kilometres long, and it is recognized as one of Canada's premier natural recreational opportunities and one of the world's great hiking trails. It forms an integral part of the Southern Ontario landscape, allowing people to explore the beautiful Niagara Escarpment, and become more aware of the need for its preservation.

Over the past 50 years, the Bruce Trail and the work of the Bruce Trail Conservancy has brought about expansive and lasting benefits for the people of Ontario. The Bruce Trail Conservancy has been responsible for conserving more than 16,000 acres and to date has secured 69 percent of the Bruce Trail's Optimum Route. The work continues, however, to secure the remaining links within the NEPOSS consisting of over 163 parks and open spaces, the majority of which are connected by the Bruce Trail. Preserving this property will add a further 3.5 acres to NEPOSS and secure 690 metres of Bruce Trail Optimum Route.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best regards,



Antoin Diamond, MCIP, RPP
Vice President, Land Acquisition
The Bruce Trail Conservancy